

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056467
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01 SS-15
SP-02 OMB-01 /073 R

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O R 061633Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, EEWT, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: ECONADS: THE SOVIET MERCHANT FLEET

REFS: (A) STATE 52828 (B) AC/127-WP/558

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, ANNOTATED EXCERPTS FROM REFDOD B WERE
HAND CARRIED TO MISSION BY RETURNING MISSION OFFICER.
THESE EXCERPTS COMBINED WITH MATERIAL BELOW MAKE UP
COMPLETE US COMMENTS ON REFDOD B.

2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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--PARA 4: DELETE FIRST SENTENCE AND DELETE QUOTE OUTMODED
UNQUOTE IN SECOND SENTENCE AS OVERSTATEMENTS.

--PARA 9: OUR INFORMATION INDICATES RETIREMENT IS NOT
OUTRUNNING REPLACEMENT.

--PARA 12: THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE SHIP BUILDING

PROGRAM IS SLOWING DOWN. IF IT IS SLOWING, IT IS SLOWING
MUCH LESS THAN REST OF WORLD.

--PARA 15: LAST SENTENCE MISLEADING AS IT STANDS,
RECOMMEND ADDING QUOTE HOWEVER IMPROVED TURN AROUND TIME

-
OF INTERMODAL VESSELS WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE CARRYING
CAPACITY OF THE LINER FLEET UNQUOTE.

--PARA 21: THE SOVIET MERCHANT FLEET IS COMPETITIVE WORLD
WIDE. RECOMMEND CHANGING LINE 6 TO READ: TO FURTHER
MODERNIZE IT AND MAKE IT EVEN MORE COMPETITIVE IN WORLD
SHIPPING.

--PARA 23: IN LINE 7 INSERT QUOTE /TRACKED UNQUOTE
BETWEEN QUOTE WHEELED UNQUOTE AND QUOTE ARMS UNQUOTE.

--PARA 33: IN LAST LINE CHANGE QUOTE OR UNQUOTE TO QUOTE
AND UNQUOTE.

--PARA 42: DELETE 1ST SENTENCE AS NOT NEEDED.

--PARA 45: CHANGE SECOND SENTENCE AS FOLLOWS QUOTE SINCE
A NUMBER OF LINES CONFERENCE CARRIERS MAY OPERATE ON A
SMALL...(REMAINDER AS IN TEXT).
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--PARA 46: AT END OF 1ST SENTENCE CHANGE QUOTE FARES
UNQUOTE TO QUOTE RATES UNQUOTE. ALSO, 40 TO 50 PERCENT
FIGURE IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE; IT MAY BE TRUE FOR SOME
COMMODITIES ON SOME LINES. LAST SENTENCE IS AN OVERSTATE-
MENT: ONE OR TWO SMALL INDEPENDENT OPERATORS MAY HAVE
RATES LOWER THAN SOVIET LINES BUT THEIR PENETRATION INTO
CONFERENCE MARKETS IS RELATIVELY SMALL IN COMPARISON TO
SOVIET LEVELS.

--PARA 52: IN LINE 8 THE 10 PERCENT FIGURE SHOULD BE 2.5
PER CENT.

--PARA 53: REPLACE LAST SENTENCE BY QUOTE FINALLY, IN
THE UNITED STATES A CONTROLLED CARRIER BILL HAS BEEN
INTRODUCED INTO THE CONGRESS TO REVIEW RATES OF CONTROLLED
CARRIERS AND TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE JUST AND REASONABLE.

--PARA 68 OVERSTATES SOVIET VULNERABILITY:

A - OF THE ONE THIRD OF NEW SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS PROCURED
IN THE WEST, 75 PER CENT COME FROM FINLAND, WHICH IS QUITE

DEPENDENT ON SOVIET PURCHASES. B - BECAUSE THE SOVIETS
HAVE SUCH VERSATILE SHIPS (EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT THE
MOST EFFICIENT), THE SOVIETS CAN MORE EASILY AND QUICKLY
ADAPT TO CHANGING MARKETS THAN SPECIALIZED FLEETS.
D - WHILE OVEREXTENSION MAY BE TRUE, CERTAIN REALIGNMENTS
AND EFFICIENCIES ARE TAKING EFFECT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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